

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 9 and 11-13.

A2
1. (Amended) An ampholyte polymer comprising:
a) acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride or methacrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, alone or in combination; and
(b) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid or 2-methacrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid, alone or in combination; wherein the mol ratio of a):b) ranges from about 20:80 to about 95:5 and wherein the weight average molecular weight of said polymer, as determined by viscometry, is at least about 100,000.

A3
7. (Amended) A water soluble ampholyte polymer comprising:
a) about 20 to about 95 mol % APTAC or MAPTAC, alone or in combination;
b) about 5 to about 80 mol % acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, AMPSA or MAMPSA, alone or in combination; and
c) ^{up therefor} ~~about 0~~ to about 20 mol % of a C₁ - C₂₂ straight or branched chain alkyl acrylate, wherein the molecular weight of said polymer is at least about 100,000.

8. (Amended) An ampholyte polymer comprising:
a) about 25 to about 75 mol % APTAC or MAPTAC, alone or in combination;
b) about 25 to about 75 mol % acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, AMPSA or MAMPSA, alone or in combination; and
c) about 0.1 to about 20 mol % of a C₁ - C₂₂ straight or branched chain alkyl acrylate or methacrylate.

A4
14. (Amended) An ampholyte polymer comprising:
a) up to about 99 mol % APTAC or MAPTAC, alone or in combination; and
b) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, AMPSA or MAMPSA, alone or in combination, wherein the molecular weight of said polymer is at least about 100,000.